

DUNHAM'S PREMATURE INFANTS—Third Edition—William A. Silverman, M.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; Director of the Premature Nursery, Babies Hospital, New York, N. Y. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Division of Harper & Brothers, 49 East 33rd Street, New York 16, N. Y., 1961. 578 pages, \$15.00.

This third edition is a great improvement over the second. The format has been completely rearranged so that the interest of the reader is held from the very beginning. On every page, the subject matter stands out sharply separated from previous data by a bold title which awakens in the reader a wish that all medical texts could be so written and printed. Tables, charts, figures and drawings abound and stand out in bold relief. The 578 pages are not the result of verbosity but are due to the separation of each subject which is discussed briefly but sufficiently to give the reader full understanding of problems pertaining to the premature infant.

In rearranging the second edition Dr. Silverman has provided the physician caring for prematures a comprehensive guide to every aspect of antenatal, perinatal and postnatal care. The dangers that beset the premature by inheritance, when in utero, in delivery room or the nursery are discussed whether of physiological, infectious or surgical nature. Besides the usual methods of care that are discussed in older books on the premature, such subjects as pneumomediastinum, pneumothorax, respiratory distress syndrome, neonatal bilirubinemia and the effect of the diabetic mother upon the premature have prominent space.

The book is divided into three sections with general, clinical and public health considerations placed in that order. In the second edition the public health and statistical aspect occupied so much space, as well as abnormal conditions affecting older infants, that the problems of the premature as met by the attending physician held a place of secondary importance. In this third edition these aspects have assumed their proper position. Each of the 26 chapters is supported with a very extensive bibliography. This reviewer considers this book one of the best and most up-to-date treatises on prematures that it has been his privilege to read. It is of interest to the practicing physician, the public health official and the statistician.

E. EARL MOODY, M.D.

OFFICE DIAGNOSIS—Paul Williamson, M.D.; With Illustrations by Ann Williamson. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1960. 470 pages, \$12.50.

This is a much more highly personal volume than most medical books. It was conceived as a new approach to the problem of practical office diagnosis for the general practitioner. It is not a compendium of diagnostic techniques and maneuvers but a series of articles telling how the author handles or would handle patients with various symptoms or diagnoses.

He presents office diagnosis as a personalized discipline. His primary assumption is that it partakes of philosophy and art as much as it does of science. Feeling that the latter is well covered, he concentrates on the former points.

Doctor Williamson anticipates that his book may evoke strong disagreements and he is right. This reviewer agrees with many of the generalities and with the much seasoned philosophy. For example, the section on hypotension (page 67) is succinct and complete. On the other hand, there are times when the writing rambles without getting any place, as in the discussion on the silent coronary (page 233).

In a number of places the reviewer is confronted by the conclusion that his practice is somehow different from that of the author and takes Section II on dermatologic symptoms as illustrative of this. Doctor Williamson mentions that eruptions caused by drugs or other chemicals are much

more rarely seen than seborrheic dermatitis, pityriasis rosea or tinea manifestations. However, we find it to be far more common than pityriasis rosea (and on the other hand we have seen pityriasis more frequently in children than he apparently has).

Despite such disagreement we find "Office Diagnosis" an interesting book and feel that it can be of help to the doctor whose suspicion index is low or one who may feel that the laboratory test might replace his clinical faculties.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

INTERNAL MEDICINE—A Physiologic and Clinical Approach to Disease—Second Edition—Robert P. McCombs, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.P., Professor of Graduate Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine; Senior Physician, Pratt Diagnostic Clinic, New England Center Hospital; Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 E. Illinois Street, Chicago 11, Ill., 1960. 750 pages, \$10.50.

The second edition of this small handbook of Internal Medicine has been considerably revised with the addition of brief considerations of newer concepts of metabolism (iron and magnesium), thyroid function, auto immunity, and diagnostic tests. Some newer therapies have also been added. Yet this book remains a barely adequate quick reference in Internal Medicine, as might be anticipated in a work as small as this.

For the past several months I have had this volume handy to look up different medical problems as they arose in practice or in my reading, and I have been disappointed more often than not at the lack of pertinent information or lack of any information at all. In most cases I found myself forced to consult a standard textbook in Internal Medicine, or a textbook in one of the medical subspecialties for the information.

Because of inadequate or incomplete coverage of most medical subjects this textbook is not recommended for the internist. However, it might prove useful to the busy general practitioner or the specialist in fields other than Internal Medicine as a handy and up-to-date source of medical information.

DANIEL GORMAN, M.D.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CHILDREN—Second Edition—Saul Krugman, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Pediatrics, New York University School of Medicine, New York, N. Y.; Director, Pediatric Service, Bellevue Hospital Center, New York, N. Y.; Director, Pediatric Service, University Hospital, New York, N. Y.; and Robert Ward, M.D.; Professor and Head, Department of Pediatrics, University of Southern California School of Medicine, Los Angeles, Calif.; Physician-in-Chief, Childrens Hospital, Los Angeles, Calif. C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 3, Mo., 1960. 398 pages, \$13.00.

The revision of the first edition of this textbook, which originally appeared in 1958, was considered necessary largely because of recent advances in viral respiratory tract diseases. The recognized virus causes of respiratory infections has grown in a few short years from about five to more than forty. A new chapter entitled "Acute Respiratory Infections" attempts to bring some degree of order out of an area of etiologic chaos. There are new chapters on enteroviral infections, rabies and the adenoviruses and a new appraisal of oral poliomyelitis vaccine. The section on management of acute bacterial meningitis and staphylococcal infections has been reworked. All of the common acute contagious diseases of childhood, including the common cold, are discussed.

This well-edited and printed book could be used as a comprehensive text for the office of pediatricians, general practitioners and all who attend children having acute infections.